

QWT

Mr. Jack K. McFall
Assistant Secretary
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

This is in reply to your request of 7 February 1952 for certain information concerning foreign decorations for employees of the United States Government.

It is suggested that the following principles be used as guidance in reviewing individual awards:

- This Agency has no cases now pending in the draft omnibus bill presently before Congress.

a. Legislation which would authorize the President to submit periodically lists of names of persons who have been tendered decorations; if Congress takes no action within a specified period of time, the Depart-

Figure 1

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ment of State would then be authorized to transmit the awards to the recipients.

- b. Legislation which would grant blanket Congressional authorization for the receipt of decorations by specified classes or groups of officials or employees.

We would not favor legislation which would prohibit officers and employees of the Government from receiving any foreign decorations either as an outright prohibition or as a policy making an exception for certain classes or groups such as those actually engaged in combat.

With regard to your third possible alternative, this Agency would not recommend as a matter of U. S. policy that the President or individual Departments or Agencies take steps to prohibit its officers or employees from receiving decorations from foreign governments such as the prohibition which applies to Foreign Service Officers.

Sincerely,

W
WALTER REID WOLF
Deputy Director

AD/P:SB:bs

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